

Ms. Hogan's breadth of knowledge about the extensive programs which AMS administers and her professionalism have always been greatly appreciated by all who have worked with her. You always knew that when you needed to get a clear explanation about a complicated AMS issue or quick assistance in drafting legislation, Ms. Hogan would be able to handle the job. AMS issues certainly do not make that job easy. Ms. Hogan has had to be proficient in issues from Federal Milk Marketing Orders, commodity grading, plant patents, agricultural transportation concerns, commodity purchases for the federal feeding programs, the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA), Organic Certification, and the ever increasing number of commodity checkoff programs, to name a few. To illustrate the breadth of her career, about the same time Ms. Hogan started in the job of Congressional Liaison, Congress passed the first industry funded commodity checkoff legislation for the cotton industry, the Cotton Research and Promotion Act. Ms. Hogan has since supervised the enactment of 19 individual checkoff statutes and the most recently enacted "generic statute."

Ms. Hogan is an exceptional breed of public servant who has always put customer service first and luckily for us, she considered Congress to be one of her most important customers. Ms. Hogan's graciousness, professionalism and extensive knowledge of the multitude of AMS programs and history will be sorely missed. I commend her on her distinctive career and wish her well as she returns to her native West Virginia.

MANDATORY GUN SHOW BACKGROUND CHECK ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2122) to require background checks at gun shows, and for other purposes:

Ms. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, guns are out of control.

Tonight, this House should not turn a deaf ear to the families and victims of Littleton, Colorado.

This Congress should strengthen the bipartisan Brady Bill by passing the McCarthy amendment to expand background checks to gun shows.

Five and a half years ago, this body debated the Brady Bill.

The gun lobby and its supporters in this body said it wouldn't work. It wouldn't work, they said, because criminals didn't buy their guns in stores.

Well, they were wrong.

Since that time, over 400,000 illegal gun sales were prevented.

Thanks to the Brady Bill, 400,000 fewer guns are on our streets and in the hands of criminals.

Thankfully, we will never know how many lives would have been lost if those guns had been sold. We will never know how many children would have died if this Congress have failed to take action and pass the Brady Bill.

Mr. Chairman, some have suggested that the waiting period should be changed from three business days to only 24 or 72 hours. But the vast majority of gun buyers complete their checks in a few hours. It is only those who are convicted of felony charges, or have a record of domestic violence or drug abuse who are denied their guns, and we need those extra days to conduct a thorough check.

So now, when the NRA comes back to Congress to argue that we shouldn't close the gun-show loophole, that we shouldn't subject gun buyers at gun shows to the same background check as gun buyers in stores, I urge my colleagues not to be swayed by their deception.

If we accomplish nothing else in the name of gun safety, we must close the gun-show loophole.

I applaud my colleague from New York for her courage and her determination, and I urge my colleagues to support the McCarthy amendment, and Mr. CONYERS' substitute.

A TRIBUTE TO JOYCE GAINES

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Joyce Gaines and her family, from Vallejo, California in my congressional district. Joyce is an amazing mother who believes higher education is a necessity for her children. In order to pay for the enormous expense of her daughter Tiaesha's college education, she worked 3 jobs and commuted 200 miles a day, despite the chronic pain of five ruptured disks in her back from a previous work related injury. Due to her mother's tremendous sacrifices, Tiaesha is the first in her family to receive a college education, with a degree in sociology from Grambling State University. Congratulations to Joyce and Tiaesha Gaines for all your accomplishments.

I have the highest respect for this single mother of four, who put the needs of her daughter and her education ahead of her own. She is a role model for her children and for young people everywhere. It is unfortunate, however, that she had to make such tremendous sacrifices just to pay the price of her child's education. We must do more to make higher education accessible and affordable to all who choose it.

I am not the only one to praise this amazing woman. President Clinton paid tribute to Joyce Gaines in his commencement speech at Grambling State University in Louisiana. I am submitting the following article which appeared in the Vallejo Times-Herald so all of my colleagues can read this inspiring story.

[From the Vallejo Times-Herald, June 3, 1999]

PRESIDENTIAL PRAISE

(By Mary M. Leahy)

For five years, Tiaesha Gaines of Vallejo prayed daily that she and her mother would be recognized at her college graduation for the sacrifices they'd made.

Gaines had no idea God would use the leader of the Free World to answer her.

At her graduation from Grambling State University in Louisiana last week, President

Clinton, in a commencement address, asked 22-year-old Gaines to stand. He then acclaimed her as "a tribute to her mother's love and sacrifice."

"Listen to this," Clinton told the crowd. "Even through the pain of five ruptured disks in her back, Joyce Gaines (Tiaesha's mother) worked three jobs and commuted 200 miles a day to put her daughter, Tiaesha, through Grambling."

Clinton, who used the address to promote a broader pro-family agenda, continued, "Stories like this remind us what people can achieve when they set their minds to it, but they also remind us of how hard it can be to raise a child right, especially today in our very busy society with its very demanding economy."

Tiaesha was videotaping the president from the second row of graduates when she heard him say her name.

"I was thinking, 'That's me! That's me!'" she said. "I was astonished, amazed. I didn't even know he knew who I was. When he said 'five ruptured disks' I knew automatically, 'That's my mom.' When he pointed at me, I got so excited, I jumped up and screamed, 'I love you Mom.' I guess I got in the way of the camera because someone saw it on CNN."

Vallejoan Joyce Gaines was sitting in the stands surrounded by family when she heard Clinton mention her.

"Chills went up and down my spine," she said. "It was so phenomenal having my name mentioned by the President of the United States."

Joyce Gaines had been interviewed three days earlier by a Grambling official, who had heard about the sacrifices she made for her daughter. Although she was told the president might use the information in his speech, she was also told many other parents were interviewed. She put it out of her mind. Surely someone else would be chosen, she thought.

"Exciting things like that never happen to me," she said. "I'm a quiet person who's usually in the background. I didn't tell my daughter because I didn't want her to be disappointed when he didn't mention me."

Joyce Gaines is a single mother of four who endured much to send Tiaesha to Grambling. Tiaesha is the first in her family to get a college education.

Twenty years ago, Joyce Gaines injured her neck and back while pulling cable lines for PG&E. Despite permanent spinal problems, she gave up part of her disability benefits so she could work around the clock and pay Tiaesha's college expenses.

One of Joyce's three jobs required driving 200 miles a day to the outskirts of Sacramento and back. She worked the graveyard shift at a residence facility for Alzheimer's patients. Another job included cleaning up after exotic birds.

"There were a lot of nights I sat up spraying anesthetic spray on my neck to numb the pain. I took anti-inflammatory medication and pain pills. I gave up buying clothes for myself to send her money," she recalled.

When Joyce and Tiaesha talk about it, they inevitably end up crying.

"I knew I'd been through a lot and my mother had been through a lot", Tiaesha said. "When you graduate, you get cards and the dinner and everybody says you did a great job. But nobody really recognizes the nights you stayed up all night typing papers or the nights you couldn't eat because you were waiting on the Western Union to come through."

"Grambling barely has a post office," Tiaesha said. "So if you miss getting the mail Friday, you miss eating on the weekend. You go through so much being away from your family, hoping everybody's thinking about you as much as you're thinking about them."